Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 STR-04 CEA-01

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R 241950Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6239 INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA AMCONSUL MONTREAL UNN AMCONSUL TORONTO UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1500

EO 11652 NA TAGS EIND ETRD CA

SUBJ REMISSION OF IMPORT DUTIES ON AUTOMOBILES WITH CANADIAN PARTS

- 1. OTTAWA CITIZEN REPORT OF APRIL 23 (CONFIRMED BY INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL) STATES THAT MINISTER GILLESPIE IS SEEKING CABINET APPROVAL FOR "MORE GENEROUS" MEASURES FOR REMISSION OF IMPORT DUTIES ON CARS THAT USE CANADIAN-MADE PARTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, MINISTER'S REQUEST FOR SUCH EASURES IS IN RESPONSE TO AUTO PARTS AND ACCESSORIES INDUSTRY WHICH IS INCREASINGLY VOCALLY CONCERNED ABOUT 1974 TRADE DEFICITS IN PARTS OF C\$2.05 BILLION WITH THE U.S. AND \$484 MILLION IN TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.
- 2. AT PRESENT, GOC ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL EXTEND SUCH DUTY REMISSIONS ONLY TO GERMANY (VOLKSWAGEN) AND JAPAN (NISSAN MOTORS) AND ARE ALLOWABLE ONLY ON CANADIAN PARTS, BOUGHT BY THESE COMPANIES AND WHICH ARE CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE WHEN THE ASSEMBLED VEHICLES ARE SHIPPED BACK TO CANADA. UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTENDED TO ANY FOREIGN AUTO MANUFACTURER AND THESE COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE RQUIRED TO SEND ALL THE PARTS THEY PURCHASE BACK TO CANADA IN ASEEMBLED AUTOS. INSTEAD, THEY COULD USE THEM FOR THEIR AUTOS SHIPPED TO ANY MARKET BUT COULD ONLY CLAIM REDUCED IMPORT DUTY (CURRENTLY 15 PERCENT WITH AN ADDITIONAL 12 PERCENT FEDERAL ALES TAX LEVIED ON DUTY-PAID VALUE) UP TO THE VALUE OF WHAT POTENTIALLY COULD BE EXPORTED TO CANADA. AS EXAMPLE, FOREIGN AUTOMAKER PURCHASING 20,000 CANADIAN-MADE STEERING WHEELS COULD CLAIM DUTY REMISSIONS FOR ONLY HALF THAT NUMBER IF IT SHIPS ONLY 10,000 CARS ANNUALLY TO CANADA.

3. UNDER NW PROPOSAL, DUTY REMISSION PLAN WOULD BE

- 4. EMBASSY COMMENT: ITC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THT
 WHILE GOC WOULD HOPE PROPOSAL WOULD LEAD TO GREATER
 SALES OF PARTS TO FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS, ANY ESTIMTES
 OF LIKELY ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE PURE CONJECTURE AT
 BEST AND EXPERIENCE TO DATE WITH FOLKSWAGEN AND NISSAN
 HAS NOT BEEN VERY SIGNIFICANT. IN LINE WITH THIS,
 TORONTO VOLKSWAGEN SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
 PARTS PURCHASES AMOUNT TO ONLY ABOUT \$3.5 MILLION
 YEARLY AND HAVE BEEN DECLINING AND THE AUTOMOTIVE
 PARTS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA HAS ALSO
 REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS
 OF THE NEW PROPOSAL.
- 5. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION RE POSSIBLE EXPORT SUBSIDY ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER WITH ANOTHER ITC OFFICIAL, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT PROPOSAL WAS AKIN TO U.S. "SUBSTITUTION FOR DRAWBACK". EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER AND ADVISE EMBASSY IF IT PERCEIVES ANY PROBLEMS OR IMPLICATIONS FOR U. S. IN CANADIAN PROPOSAL. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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